

High Ability Programming



Franklin Community Schools are Making it Happen!



WE ARE located in Franklin, Indiana, just south of Indianapolis. Franklin Community Schools has 5,175 students who attend our 8 schools preK-12. Our mission statement is, "Together, we empower greatness in all learners through collaboration, dynamic partnerships, and rich experiences that develop a world-class learning environment."

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES are wonderful Franklin and surrounding community residents. 41% of our students receive free or reduced lunches, 88% of our students are White while 12% of our students are from a non-White ethnicity, and 14% of our students receive special education services.

OUR TEACHERS are 300 dedicated educators who do excellent work for students each and every day.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE is that we recognized that high ability (gifted) learners had academic needs that weren't being met by our already rigorous general education curriculum. We now have a research-based, multifaceted identification process to identify high achieving or high potential learners in grades K-12 in reading and/or mathematics. We identify these students and then place these learners into self-contained classrooms, clustered groupings, or teams of their high ability peers. We use a separate, school board-adopted curriculum designed for high ability learners in reading, mathematics, or both, so that these students will have their exceptional needs met and show consistent academic growth.

OUR STEPS We have invested significant resources into high-quality professional development for our teachers of high ability learners, have worked with community stakeholders on our program design, and now have completed a K-12 high ability program evaluation to find our current strengths and weaknesses so that we may continue to improve our programming for our students.

OUR SOURCES include the top research completed on best practices for identification, instruction, curriculum, and meeting the affective needs of gifted children. A summary of this research is located at <https://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/gifted-education-practices>.

Also, information specific to the Franklin Community Schools high ability program can be accessed at <http://franklinschools.schoolwires.net/domain/31>.

For more information about Franklin Community Schools' high ability program, please visit www.franklinschools.org or email Dr. Mark Heiden at heidenm@franklinschools.org.